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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,479	07/09/2001	Dane J. Hoechst	018470-9053-00	5170

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EXAMINER

YEAGLEY, DANIEL S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,479

Applicant(s)

HOECHST ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel Yeagley

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The Declaration, Request for time, RCE and the Amendment filed 5/12/03 have been acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 - 4, 6, 8 - 10, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chambers '538 in view of Pano '015.

Chambers shows a motorcycle comprising a frame 20, engine transmission assembly mounted to the frame having a drive sprocket (not shown) mounted to an output shaft 30c (figure 5), a rear wheel sprocket 13 mounted to a rear wheel 58 and mounted to a swingarm 52 having a pivot member 23 interconnecting the swingarm for pivotally mounting the swingarm to at least one of a frame and engine transmission assembly for pivotal movement within a range of motion (figure 9), such that the pivot axis of the drive sprocket and the pivot axis of the swingarm are non-collinear, and includes a flexible drive member 11 (drive belt) having an upper extent extending between the upper portions of the drive sprocket and wheel sprocket and a lower extent extending between the lower portions of the drive sprocket and the rear wheel sprocket, which includes a tensioner (not numbered) comprising a bracket and a roller and which encompasses a method such that the tensioner is fixed to at least one of a frame and engine

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transmission assembly and having a belt path length defined by the drive sprocket, the rear wheel sprocket and the tensioner which remains substantially constant as the swingarm pivots which clearly shows the lower extent of the drive belt remaining in contact with the tensioner as the swingarm pivots through a range of motion but failed to disclose the tensioner being fixed to at least one of a frame and engine transmission assembly against both pivotal and translational movement with respect to the output shaft as understood.

Pano clearly shows in figure 1, a tensioner that includes a bracket 8 fixed to at least one of the frame and having a roller mounted for rotation to the bracket and in contact with the drive belt; such like that of applicants invention and wherein the tensioner of Pano is visibly fixed to the frame as claimed which clearly couples the tensioner to the frame against both pivotal and translational movement with respect to an output shaft such that the lower extent of the drive belt remains in contact with the tensioner as the swingarm pivots through a range of motion as now claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the flexible drive member tensioner of Chambers motorcycle with a fixed tensioner coupled to the frame, such as shown by Pano in order to compensate for slack in the drive member when the swing arm pivots through its range of motion as is well known and old in the belt tensioning art to retain tension on the belt for greater reliability and longer life of the flexible drive member.

4. Claim 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chambers '538 as modified by Pano, as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of Hatsuyama '069.

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Chambers as modified by Pano shows a swingarm pivotally mounted to the engine/transmission assembly and the frame but failed to show the swingarm pivotally mounted to only an engine transmission assembly. Hatsuyama shows a motorcycle having an engine transmission assembly mounted to the frame, which clearly shows the prior art of a swingarm, mounted only to the engine transmission assembly as claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified the swingarm of the Chambers as modified by Pano motorcycle by alternatively mounting the swingarm to another component such as the engine transmission assembly as taught by the Hatsuyama swingarm assembly, as an alternative location for mounting the swingarm for pivotal motion of the rear wheel assembly based upon user choice of an alternate frame structure where no frame is available to mount the swingarm to the motorcycle.

5. Claim 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chambers '538 as modified by Pano as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of Bernard '216.

Chambers as modified by Pano clearly shows a tensioner fixedly mounted to the frame and contacts the lower extent of the drive member but failed to show the tensioner fixed only to the engine transmission assembly. Bernard shows a motorcycle having an engine transmission assembly mounted to the frame, which clearly shows the prior art of a belt tensioner mounted only to the engine transmission assembly as claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified the tensioner of the Chambers as modified by Pano motorcycle to alternately replace the tensioner on the frame with a belt tensioner mounted to the engine transmission assembly such as taught by Bernard belt tension means simply as an alternative location for mounting the tensioner to engage the belt for removing slack and retaining tension in a drive belt based upon structural limitations of the motorcycle components.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 and in further view of applicants declaration filed 5/12/03 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as now claimed; wherein Chambers clearly discloses the prior art of a belt tensioner mounted to the frame and engine transmission assembly of a motorcycle that contacts the lower extent of the drive member and as clearly shown by the earlier cited art reference of Pano who distinctively shows the tensioner fixedly mounted to the frame against both pivotal and translational movement with respect to an output shaft as understood and as now claimed by applicant.

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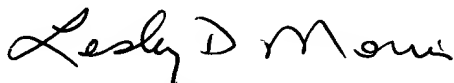
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Yeagley whose telephone number is 703-305-0838. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri; first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley D Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

D.Y.
July 16, 2003


LESLEY D. MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600